

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020052-9

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CIA/OCI/WHITE 740221

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/MHSS

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

ROUTING

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| 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 |
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMEE,
 STATE PCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION
 [REDACTED]

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3 25X1A

DATE: 23 FEB 74

SUBJECT: UNSEASONABLE WEATHER THREATENS SOVIET GRAIN CROP

REF. 1 :

A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON IZVESTIA YESTERDAY IMPLIES THAT MELTING SNOW, FLOODING, AND ICE CRUSTS THREATEN THIS YEAR'S SOVIET WINTER GRAIN CROP. ALTHOUGH CLOTHING AND SPECIAL GROUNDS FOR ALARM AND CONCERN," THE ARTICLE ORDERED FARMERS TO DRAIN FLOODED FIELDS IMMEDIATELY AND PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT SEVERE FROSTS COULD KILL CROPS DEPRIVED OF PROTECTIVE SNOW COVER.

UNSEASONABLE AND CHANGEABLE WEATHER HAS ALREADY LEFT THE CROP VULNERABLE. AN UNUSUALLY RAINY AUTUMN DELAYED SOME SOWING LAST YEAR, AND AN EARLY SNOW COULD SPELL SLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCED THE HARDINESS OF THE GRAIN IN MOST OF THE EUROPEAN USSR. AT THIS

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IN LATE DECEMBER FOLLOWED BY A SUDDEN COLD SPELL IN MID-JANUARY DAMAGED SOWINGS IN THE NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE, THE CENTRAL BLACK EARTH REGION, AND THE LOWER VOLGA. THE SNOW COVER NEEDED TO INSULATE THE PLANTS FROM KILLING AIR TEMPERATURES WAS THIN OR ABSENT OVER MOST OF THE AREA THROUGH JANUARY. NOW, ABOVE-NORMAL TEMPERATURES FOR FEBRUARY HAVE COMPLETELY MELTED THE SNOW IN KEY AREAS. STANDING WATER AND ICE CRUTS CAN SUFFOCATE SEEDLINGS IN SOME PLACES. MORE THREATENING TO ALL REGIONS, HOWEVER, IS THE WARM WEATHER WHICH REDUCES PLANT RESISTANCE TO EXTREME COLD, STILL LIKELY TO OCCUR.

ALTHOUGH THE WINTER GRAIN AREA LOST TO WINTERKILL COULD EXCEED THE LONG-RUN AVERAGE OF 20 PERCENT, A LARGE PLANTING LAST FALL AND THE RESEEDING OF DAMAGED AREAS WITH SPRING GRAIN COULD STILL PRODUCE A NORMAL OR ABOVE-NORMAL 1974 GRAIN CROP. RESEEDING IS CENTERED ON FEED GRAINS, HOWEVER, SO THAT THE BREADGRAIN HARVEST COULD FALL BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. E-2 IMPDET.

2 ESPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR AND [REDACTED]

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DATE: 01 FEB 78

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